

Whereas the Inhabitants of this province that ship Tobacco on board
ships and other Vessels upon freight are much abused by Cropping
Cutting Softening and Diminishing of the hoggheads wherewith
Tobacco is packt by the masters of ships or other Vessels or by other persons
under their Command and Government For remedy wherof for y^e
future Be it Enacted by the Authority Advice and Consent a^{ss}
that if any Master of a ship or other Vessel within this province after
the end of this present Sessions of Assembly shall receive any hogghead
or hoggheads of Tobacco on board his said Ship or Vessel on freight and
shall either by himselfe or any other officer or person on board his said
ship or Vessel under his Command Cut or Suffer any hogghead or hoggs
heads of tobacco to be Cut Cropt or Softened in their Length or breadth or
by any other ways or moanes abused defaced or Impaired that then and
in every such Case Such master of Ships or Vessels for every hogghead of
tobacco so Cut or Suffered to be Cut Cropt or Softened in their length or breadth
abused defaced or Impaired to be proved by the Oath of any Suff^r person
to Whome the Tobacco is Consign'd in great Brittain or other Sufficient
Witness taken before any Magistrate and a Certificate thereof made by any
Notary Publick or Magistrate and Sent hither under his hand and Seal or
by any other Legall proof whatsoever made in this province or Else where
shall forfeit and pay the sume of Six hundred pounds of tobacco or ffifty
Shillings Sterling to the party Griev'd to be recovered in any Court of record
in this province against such master or his Sureties by action of debt or on the
Case, within two years after the date of the bill or bills of Lading of such Tobacco
And Be it Enacted by the Authority a^{ss} that the Security or
Securities of any master of a Ship or Vessel within this province shall be liable
to make Satisfaction according to this Act for the Cropping Cutting abysing
defacing and Impairing of any hogghead or hoggsheads of tobacco as a^{ss}
and prosecuted for the same in any Court of record within this province
that can hold plea thereof and that every Navall Officer within this province
shall on pain of ffifty shillings Sterling Certifie Under his hand and
Seal who are the Security or Securitys of any such master which shall
be a Sufficient Evidence in any Court of record where such action is Commenced
to prove who are the Security or Securitys of such master for which
Certificate the Navall Officer may have and receive, one Shilling and no
more, and that the severall and respective Navall officers within this
province shall hang a fair Copy of this Law in their respective offices for
the perusal of all masters of ships and Vessels the said Navall officer
to have and receive for the said Copy one hundred pounds of tobacco to be
(Allowed)